

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8204

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9293

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, US

SUBJ: NCNA QUOTES PRESIDENT NIXON ON NEED FOR A STRONG US
DEFENSE POSTURE

SUMMARY: NCNA HAS CARRIED AN UNUSUAL REPORT ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S
SEPT 10 MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES EMPHA-
SIZING HIS CALL FOR CONTINUED US MILITARY STRENGTH. THE
SELECTED QUOTES BUTTRESS PEKING'S PRESENT LINE THAT CONTENTION
IS THE BASIC CONTENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO
SUPERPOWERS, THAT EUROPE IS THE KEY POINT AND NATO SHOULD RE-
MAIN STRONG, AND THAT AMERICAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
REMAIN SERIOUS. END SUMMARY

1. NCNA (SEPT 16) REPORTED PRES. NIXON'S SEPT 10 MESSAGE TO
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CONGRESS ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES EMPHASIZING THE THEME THAT "THE

US COULD NEVER LET THE SOVIET UNION GAIN AN ADVANTAGE OVER IT IN MILITARY STRENGTH." THIS REPORT APPEARS DESIGNED TO POINT UP FOR READERS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF CHINA THE VALIDITY OF THE BASIC FOREIGN POLICY ASSUMPTION OF PREMIER CHOU'S REPORT TO THE 10TH PARTY CONGRESS--I.E. THE MAIN SUBSTANCE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION TODAY IS CONTENTION, NOT COLLUSION. QUOTING THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION THAT THE US MUST "NEVER FALL INTO THE POSITION OF BEING THE WORLD'S SECOND STRONGEST NATION," AND HIS STATEMENT THAT "IT IS ILLOGICAL TO CUT AMERICA'S CAPABILITIES AT THE VERY TIME THE SOVIET UNION INCREASES HERS," THE ITEM UNDERSCORES THE CHOUIST ASSUMPTION THAT THE US CAN AND WILL REMAIN AS THE MAJOR COUNTERWEIGHT TO SOVIET POWER NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. (THIS, OF COURSE, PROVIDES PART OF THE BASIC RATIONALE FOR THE PRC'S CURRENT POLICY TOWARD THE US.)

2. NCNA ALSO QUOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (APPARENTLY THE VERSION DISTRIBUTED BY USIS) TO BUTTRESS SEVERAL OTHER THEMES PROMINENT IN PRC PROPAGANDA. IT SAYS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON MAINTAINING STRENGTH WHILE NEGOTIATING DISARMAMENT ISSUES SHOW THAT THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE "EACH TRYING TO OUTDO ITS ADVERSARY IN THE ARMS RACE THROUGH BARGAINING IN 'DISARMAMENT TALKS'." THIS IS THUS SHOWN TO SUPPORT THE CHINESE ASSERTION THAT THE TALKS ARE A SHAM. PEKING'S PERCEIVED NEED FOR WESTERN EUROPE TO REMAIN STRONG VIS-A-VIS THE USSR IS UNDERLINED BY REPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL WITHDRAWALS OF US TROOPS FROM THERE AND BY QUOTING--WITH OBVIOUS APPROVAL--HIS STATEMENT THAT SUCH CUTS WOULD BE "A MISTAKE THAT COULD BEGIN A SERIOUS UNRAVELING OF THE NATO ALLIANCE." NCNA CONCLUDES THE ARTICLE BY DRAWING FROM THE DOMESTIC PORTIONS OF THE MESSAGE TO EMPHASIZE STANDARD NCNA THEMES OF US SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

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